After Stonewall: From the Riots to the Millennium

Thirty years ago, America's lesbians and gays - a largely closeted, fragmented and shunned community - experienced a profound turning point. On June 27, 1969, in what is considered the birth of the Gay Liberation Movement and Ellen DeGeneres' highly publicized coming out performance, AFTER STONEWALL presents a story as compelling, rewarding and provocative as the individual lesbians and gays who defined the era.

Narrowed by celebrated musical artist Melissa Etheridge, AFTER STONEWALL captures the struggles, defeats and triumphs of a proud, though still stigmatized, community. The film records the personal accounts of gays and lesbians who have transformed not only their own lives, but also American society and the world community. According to program producer John Scagliotti, "These are the stories that prompted the public to question its own fundamental values with regard to family, work, religion and relationships. ... Through this film, viewers will be educated about the profound influence gays and lesbians have had on the shaping of the 20th century."

Archival and never-before-released footage from the gay and lesbian community, including personal videos and 8mm home movies, provides the centerpiece of AFTER STONEWALL. Filmmakers interviewed more than 200 people for the film, including author Armistead Maupin; early activists Frank Kameny, Jewelle Gomez and Barbara Gittings; Representative Barney Frank (D-Mass.); novelist Dorothy Allison; presidential advisor David Mixner; drag entertainer Charles Ching; best-selling author Rita Mae Brown; gay community leader Elizabeth Birch; and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals from all walks of life. AFTER STONEWALL is the sequel to the Emmy Award-winning documentary BEFORE STONEWALL, which succeeded in bringing gay and lesbian issues to national attention with its PBS release in 1986. BEFORE STONEWALL, which was produced by Robert Rosenberg, John Scagliotti and Greta Schiller, remains a popular educational documentary repeatedly shown on public television and in homes, schools and workplaces as an honest depiction of the earliest, yet neglected, history of gay life in America.

Announcing The Winners of the First “Maine Students Writing Awards”

Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance and the Maine Department of Education are pleased to announce the results of the inaugural Maine Student Writing Awards. This annual statewide competition for high school students the only contest of its kind for young Maine writers is sponsored by MWPA, the Maine Department of Education, and the Maine Arts Commission, made possible this year with support from the Libra Foundation.

The goals of this contest are to recognize outstanding young writers in a public forum, to foster literacy, and to encourage more students to consider writing careers. Three winners were selected in each category; fiction was judged by award-winning writer Monica Wood, poetry by Maine’s Poet Laureate Kate Barnes, and creative nonfiction by noted author and editor John N. Cole.

This year, the winners will receive a $150 cash award, a complimentary one-year membership in MWPA; online and print publication (both from the Portland Press Herald—check the website www.portland.com/teengo in mid-June); and the opportunity to read their writing to a public audience at the Maine Festival on Friday, August 6 from 1:15-3:15 p.m. in the Literary Arts tent. The response to the contest was phenomenal: 320 students from 77 schools statewide submitted manuscripts. Teachers expressed equal enthusiasm. Mary Greely, an English teacher at Kennebunk High School, said “I think it is essential that we celebrate good student writing and that we encourage all students to become excited about their writing, to be the best writers they can be.”

The nine winners of the 1999 Maine Student Writing Awards are:
- Fiction: o Elly Perkins of Falmouth High School for “Mary-Jean” o Hannah Maris of Brunswick High School for “Galeata’s Kiss” o Rosalie Genova of Portland High School for “Ne Pas Dormir” Honorable mention to: o Heidie Weston of Madison Area Memorial High School
- Creative nonfiction: o Jesse Mellott of Brewer High School for “Another Home” o Alecia Ball of Mount Desert Island High School for “Before Growing Up” o Malin Pinsky of Orono High School for “Cheowonki Morning” Poetry: o Selena Humphreys of Orono High School for “Mistress of Ceremonies” o Carey Groeau of Hampden Academy for “His Hand” o Maia Pinsky of Orono High School for “The Machias Dump (for Jane Kenyon)” Honorable mentions to: Amy Crawford of Brewer High School; Elizabeth Park and Susan Shea of Deering High School; Christina Lowery of Gardiner High School; Jeanne Lilly of George Stevens Academy; Morgan McCormack of Gorham High School; Samantha Hawkins of Maine School of Science and Mathematics; Alecia Ball of Mount Desert Island High School; Laura Jones of Mount View High School; Ryan Gordon of Orono High School; Fiona Clifford of Westbrook High School; Emily Simons of Yarmouth High School. “We want all of the students to know that we appreciate the courage it took to submit their writing,” said Jill Shultz, Program Director of MWPA. “Most of the adults involved in managing the contest are writers. There is so much we wanted to share with the students all the things we wished we’d heard when we were young writers. I hope these awards inspire them to keep writing and I hope to see an even greater number of submissions next year.”

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**Community Pride Reporter**

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- Michael Thomas Ford
- My Queer Life
- Kevin Ivers
- Log Cabin Republicans Forum
- Kurt Erichsen
- Murphy’s Manor
- Phyllis Randall Frye
- Phyllabuster National Updates & Commentary
- Daralyn Maxwell
- Trans Forum

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**Schedule of Events for Bangor Pride ’99.**

- **Friday, July 9th - Bangor Opera House (Downtown Bangor)**
  Comedy Palooza 2 Featuring the hilarious styles of Eddie Safary and Karen Ripley.
  Tickets: $12.00 in advance, $15.00 at the door
  Free Admission to Pride Pass holders.
- **Pride Parade and Festival Saturday, July 10th**
  The 7th Annual Pride Parade will take place, starting at 11:30 in front of Fleet Bank on Exchange Street.
- **GLBT Prom Night Saturday Evening: 8:00PM, July 10th**
  Bangor’s first ever Gay Prom will take place at Jeff’s Catering in Brewer. Music, dancing, food and a cash bar will be available.
  This catered event will feature a champagne toast to help celebrate the evenings.
  Please RSVP by July 5th to the Bangor Pride Committee.
  Tickets: $15.00/individual - $25.00/couple
  Free Admission to Pride Pass holders.
- **Brunch and Drum Circle Sunday: 11:00am - 1:00pm, July 11th**
  Join the fun at one of Orono’s famed college haunts. Home-cooked breakfast brunch buffet. Also, bring your drums, percussion instruments or just your rhythmic heart to this light-hearted wrap-up Pride Event.
  Admission: $6.95 at the door (includes buffet ordering only)
  Free Admission to Pride Pass holders.
- **Bangor Pride Pass - $30.00**
  For just $30.00 - you get it all and more! Pass holders receive admission to all Bangor Pride authorized events and will save at local businesses.
  Flash the pass at local businesses and you’ll receive discounts.

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**An Official Announcement of the First Maine Students Writing Awards**

To all Writers:

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Nite 'n' Day, Rocks

by Michael Rossetti

When Rose Larkin, the manager of Nite 'n' Day called me, (That's an n with two apostrophes, yet another original aspect of the band) I had already signed on all the entertainment for Portland's Pride festival stages.

It's the point where Bands you never heard of or musicians who live in places you never heard of, find out who is playing Pride and feel that it's a chance to be critical and redefine the festival.

Several days later the tape arrived along with the video and great bio material. I viewed. I listened. I read.

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I got the sense and feel of not only original music, but enthusiasm and musicianship that seemed to me to have distinctive character. Character that Maine music lovers want or the band is usually just another group of people with instruments on a stage. Character which must be visually there as well as audible when you need to do a live stage, particularly using other more known bands.

After the listen and the research, Nite 'n' Day was on definitely on the list and the rest of the Festival Stage was arranged to give this new band an opportunity. I've yet to reconsider the idea for a second, feeling assured of a great close to the festival with something distinctly new and fun.

Nite 'n' Day is truly original music. It's an all female alternative pop rock band. It has a sound which can be described as music with attitude. Checking their credentials one hears praises such as "straight from the heart," "they feel the lyrics and music," and "alot of energy, alot of fun to watch."

The band consists of Deb DeTuscio, their drummer. The lead guitar and back up vocals get worked by Heather Keast. Bass player is Shannon Nashawaty. The all round mechanic of music on guitar, backup vocals and percussion is Jen O'Toole. Lead vocal is, with great lungs and pouncing energy, Ginny Brown.

All members are serious musicians from other bands that decided to jam together and have fun, resulting in Nite 'n' Day. The name is an attempt to describe the truly diverse personalities that blend so effortlessly, just like night and day.

Pushing the group's future, like a daunting mother, is their manager Rose Larkin. Rose doubles as sound engineer and often arranger. Certainly a formidable "Mom" if you need a good manager.

Nite 'n' Day had their first CD released last May. It will be available at Portland's Pride Festival, where the group appears fourth in line-up of the bands (about 7 pm) on Saturday, June 19th in Deering Oaks Park. It's the perfect time to hear them and get the take home version of the band.

Remember the name, you'll be hearing it alo: Nite 'n' Day.

(Nite 'n' Day can be contacted for bookings and information by calling Rose Larkin at 207-721-9544.)


THE SPIRIT OF STONEWALL

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the modern gay rights movement.

On Friday, June 27, 1969, the New York City Police Department raided and attempted to close the Stonewall Inn for the perceived crime of operating a dance bar that catered to homosexuals.

Recall that in 1969 New York it was illegal for men to dance with men, although, oddly, it was legal for women to dance with women.

In New York City and almost everywhere, police raids on gay bars were routine. Usually, the patrons scattered, fearful of the repercussions of being caught in a gay bar. On this night, brave young men and women stood up to the police. They were no longer willing to accept daily harassment and the abridgement of their civil rights.

The Police operated in their customary fashion, hurling a string of homophobic comments, as they evicted the bar patrons one by one. As patrons and onlookers gathered outside, the crowd grew. A parking meter was uprooted and used to barricade the door.

Thirteen gay people were arrested that first night. This was the beginning of a number of nights of demonstrations that drew national attention. Moreover, it demonstrated to the gay community that there was an alternative to continued oppression.

It also showed the community at large that gays were no longer willing to be silent in the face of injustice. After that night the movement to protect the rights of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered gained strength and respectability.

In the last thirty years, much has changed. Gay bars can be found in almost every town from Anchorage, Alaska to Wheeling, West Virginia. More important, bookstores, hot-lines and support groups have appeared in smaller communities to ease the isolation previously felt by many gays.

The legacy of Stonewall can be seen in the lives of hundreds of thousands of men and women who are able to live their lives honestly and out of the closet.

The Stonewall Revolution inspired men and women to "come out" and showed young gays and lesbians that they are not alone.

Today, an openly gay person is no longer automatically disqualified from holding public office or other positions of trust. Now, numerous communities have embraced the post-Stonewall reality by passing laws specifically protecting against discrimination based on real or perceived sexual preference.

I am proud to represent thousands of gay and lesbians, in Manhattan and Queens and I am proud of my close relationships with an support of the Stonewall Veterans Association, a group of those actually present on that fateful night.

As we celebrate the anniversary of the modern gay rights movement, we recognize the expansion of freedom has not been uniform and much remains to be done. We celebrate the important, but incomplete, steps toward equality for those previously banished to the closet. Much more remains to be done. We must continue to change institutional prejudice against those who are different.

And we must recommit ourselves to the fight against all types of bigotry whether based on race, religion, national origin, sexual preference or gender.

Maine Public Broadcasting will be airing a special television documentary called "After Stonewall" at the end of this month. Check your local listing for air times and dates.

Whoever said lesbians are invisible has never travelled with us!

Damron Women's Traveller.

The only guide for women who love women who love to travel.

Are you Pride2K compatible?

That's the question on June 28 when the Southern Maine Pride planning committee starts the first session of design and ideas for Pride 2000. It's bound to be fun with all the photos and reviews of Pride '99, but it's also a chance to be critical and redefine the festival.

One thing the new millennium promises is a turnover in leadership and the nature of our lesbian community. SoMePride is a firm believer that the gay community is undergoing a fundamental change in it's thinking and attitude.

That's one reason this year's festival incorporates so many groups and other events.

However, change is happening not entirely because younger generations are overdue for empowerment in just about every aspect of live in our community. It's also because of a cultural shift in acceptance and openness about gays that is becoming pervasive.

The lesbian and gay community is part of that new openness, accepting themselves, as more and more, we find people less willing to live their lives with the fears of past generations.

For those on Pride committees the problem is fitting the celebration and projects of Pride to the new maturity. Like any organization, although we essentially celebrate gay "Independence Day", the Stonewall riots, we must be relevant to the community in which we live.

That job is your job if you feel visibility on the scale of Pride events is a good thing. You can express your thoughts as part of the Portland committee at their first Pride 2K meeting on June 28, at the Pride Resource Office, Suite 508, 142 High Street starting at 6 p.m.

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In teem and a sense that quality health care is afforded and quality health care. But finding affordable and quality health care. "Lesbians face all the typical issues such as having health insurance, traveling some distance for health care, finding child care while they visit a health care provider, or being able to take time off from work," she said. "In addition there is a specific domestic partner issue that lesbians have, because unlike heterosexual women who are legally married, few lesbians can be insured under their partner's policy. But the real issue is providers' inability to communicate sensitively and effectively with their patients. Also, providers often have a lack of knowledge about the health issues of lesbians."

Dr. White has found that many providers would like to have lesbian patients but don't have the knowledge or experience to be good providers. She and her colleagues have traveled around the country educating health care providers in how to communicate effectively with lesbian patients and increase their knowledge base of lesbian health care issues.

She says "in my workshops I give a talk on the primary care of lesbian patients. We talk about parenting, coming out, HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, cancer risk and screening, depression, substance abuse, domestic violence, hate crime violence, and social issues. Many of the doctors who come to these workshops will go on to teach these issues to their students and medical residents, so it's important for me to teach communication skills."

In one of Dr. White's role-plays, a workshop leader will play a Mexican-American data entry technologist who comes in wanting to talk about parenting options. "The task of a workshop participant is to determine her sexual orientation and discuss options such as incontinence, consider appropriate referrals, and deal with these issues sensitively."

Dr. White said, "The person playing the role of the patient is scripted to present some challenges." Other workshop participants are asked to be observers and comment on what they saw and felt during the role play.

In another role play, the workshop leader plays the part of a patient who has breast cancer, and tells the doctor that her partner no longer wants to have sex with her. "It's very interesting for the heterosexual doctors and nurses to have to play the role of a lesbian," said Dr. White, "because they have to start trying to identify with what it feels like to be a lesbian patient who has a doctor say something to them that is insensitive.

There is a perception that role plays are somewhat fake, but in fact they can be very powerful." I asked Dr. White what some good opening questions are for doctors who want to be sensitive to lesbian patients.

"You can start by asking are you partnered, married, single, or divorced? rather than launching right in with such questions as 'what kind of birth control do you use?' she answered. "You can ask 'do you have a significant other? or who is in your family?' in order to demonstrate that you are open to hearing about broader definitions of relationships and families."

She added, "You want to learn about the social history of the patient and it's also important to be comfortable taking a sexual history if necessary. Few doctors are comfortable taking a sexual history, even if they do it every day, because we don't talk much about sex in our culture. Sexual questions by doctors need to make it clear to the patient that any response is possible."

Dr. White has surveyed lesbians about advice they would give doctors. "Almost to a person they all said 'don't assume I'm heterosexual' so we need to work on breaking down those assumptions of heterosexuality," she said.

Lesbian respondents also told of negative incidents with their doctors. Dr. White described one of these anecdotes: "One woman had severe vaginal hemorrhaging and went to the emergency room. The doctor, assuming she was heterosexual, asked about birth control and pregnancy. When she told the doctor she was a lesbian, he flushed, got embarrassed, terminated the interview, left the cubicle, and never came back.

A different woman came back and completed the pelvic exam. The lesbian patient was horrified and felt humiliated. She immediately sought out a lesbian doctor."

Another anecdote: "A lesbian was in a motorcycle accident in which she collided head on with a bus. She told the doctor she was a lesbian, and he put in 100 sutures in her leg without numbing."

He didn't x-ray her skull, even though she had lost consciousness during the accident, and missed a skull fracture. So this doctor committed assault and battery as well as malpractice and now he is being investigated."

In sum, Dr. White's mission is to help doctors provide better care for lesbian patients and help lesbians feel good about themselves so that they know their rights in the doctor's office.

She encourages lesbians to keep looking for a good doctor and keep moving on until they find one. She hopes they can be happy with.

She tells lesbians to talk with their friends about doctors who are trusted in their community, or else go to talks given by doctors and ask questions about affirmative doctors. "We deserve a good doctor. It's our right and we should not tolerate poor health care. We should just walk out if the doctor is homophobic, and we should report these doctors to the insurance company or the HMO."

Dr. White has found that lesbians happy with their health care tend to have high self-esteem and a sense that quality health care is their right. She hopes to teach other lesbians that this is their right as well.

Dr. Jocelyn White practices as a general internist in Portland, Oregon. She is editor of the JOURNAL OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and co-editor of THE LESBIAN HEALTH BOOK.

She teaches at Legacy Portland Hospital and is a member of the Lesbian Health Research Institute.

Esther Rothblum is Professor of Psychology at the University of Vermont and Editor of the Journal of Lesbian Studies. She can be reached at John Dewey Hall, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, email: esther.rothblum@uvm.edu.

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The Miami Herald an article appeared about Diane Arnold, who had just been elected to the Democratic Executive Board of Directors in Broward County, Florida.

What may at first seem like a small, routine election, however, was a morale victory for sexual minorities everywhere, for Ms. Arnold was voted into office by 300 party members who had full knowledge of her being a transsexual woman. Ms. Arnold will now represent 5 cities in central Broward County. Ms. Arnold, born as "David," has three children and is a retired security supervisor for the State of New York. She decided to transition in her mid sixties after her wife of 23 years died last year.

She legally changed her name last month and is undergoing hormone therapy. Ms. Arnold is already a well known and respected member of her community, having run for Mayor of Lauderdale Lakes last year and currently chairing the Lauderdale Lakes Community Council.

"Ms. Arnold's presence in mainstream political arenas signals the onset of a new era," said Dr. Sarah Fox, Chief Administrator for QULL, a large transgender/bisexual/lesbian/gay Internet wire service on whose staff Ms. Arnold serves. "I think the public is finally starting to understand that we are ordinary people trying to be productive in our communities. We are not the outlandish caricatures portrayed by actors on the daytime talk shows."

"I have not heard one word of criticism," said Arnold. "Most people are telling me how brave I am." Since her election to the Board, Ms. Arnold has been interviewed by TWN a local gay news paper in South Florida. On June 1, she was a guest on a live call in radio show, and she has been asked to appear on TV. Says Ms. Arnold, "The only reason I'm doing any of this is for the guys and girls that are coming of age now. I want to show that you must not be afraid of being yourself and doing what you want. Don't sit in a corner at home. Get out and just do it!"

Lottie Albert long time activist for the Democratic Party stated that Diane will do a great job for the party.
Task Force and GLSEN call for passage of Dignity Act

Washington, D.C.—June 2, 1999—The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network today called on California lawmakers to approve a measure that would make California schools safer for gay, lesbian, and bisexual students and teachers. The bill, AB222, is sponsored by Assemblymember Shelia Kuehl (D-Los Angeles) and would outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The bill could face a vote before the California Assembly as early as Thursday. “Children are not born with bigotry and intolerance: they learn it.”

Banning discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) students and teachers sends the message that hate will not be tolerated,” stated Kerry Lobel, NGLTF Executive Director. “Students cannot learn in an environment where anti-GlBT sentiments are pervasive and unchecked.”

Discrimination against and harassment of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth is endemic. According to the 1997 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, gay, lesbian, and bisexual students are more than seven times as likely as their heterosexual classmates to be threatened with a weapon, and as much as five times as likely to skip school because they feel unsafe.

Average high school students hear anti-gay epithets 25 times per day on average. When teachers are present while these incidents occur, they do not intervene up to 97% of the time.

“This bill does something very simple: it puts the “Public” back into public education. Studies continue to demonstrate widespread discrimination and harassment of GLBT students in schools; AB 222 appropriately seeks to right these wrongs.

After all, our public education system is, in fact, for every student—regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Discrimination against any kind of student has no place in our public schools,” stated John Spear, National Field Director for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

If passed, California would join Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin to legislatively enact similar measures addressing discrimination and harassment against GLBT students.

This year two other states—Texas and Hawaii—have introduced similar school anti-discrimination measures, but both have died. Four additional states, Colorado, Maine, New York, and Washington, have introduced bills requiring schools to develop anti-harassment programs to prevent and stop anti-GlBT student harassment. Only the Maine and New York measures are active.

Founded in 1973, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force works to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people at the local, state and national level. As part of a broader social justice movement for freedom, justice and equality, NGLTF is creating a world that respects and celebrates the diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society.

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network is the largest national organization working to end anti-gay bias in America’s schools. Established nationally in 1994, GLSEN now has 85 chapters in communities across the country.

My Queer Life: The Adventures of Spider Man

Michael Thomas Ford

I locked myself out of the house today. Normally I wouldn’t do such a thing. I’m fairly compulsive about always having my keys with me when I go out the front door, which locks automatically. But there were extenuating circumstances. Namely, the spider.

I’d been spending a lovely morning lying on the bed watching the French Open, when Monica Seles was kicking Conchita Martínez’s butt in the quarterfinals. As Monica prepared to serve for the match, I rolled over and looked up at the ceiling. There, clinging to the edge of the light fixture several feet above my head, was the spider.

I don’t like spiders. They have too many legs and too many eyes, and they’re always nosy.

I am convinced that at night they come out and sit looking at me, waiting for the perfect moment to inject me with something that will poison my nervous system before I could even see it.

The world is full of nasty critters, or that maybe some stray electricity would zap it for me.

Then, attempting to channel Xena, I went for it. Pushing the broom over the porch railing and watching for the spider to tumble off the light and onto my naked self.

So there I stayed for about ten minutes, watching for signs of attack and trying not to breathe too heavily. Finally, I think, the spider was occupied with something else, I flung myself sideways off the bed and onto the floor with a crash.

As I scrambled for safety, I could hear the spider hissing with irritation, but it stayed where it was.

I made sure I kept one eye on it as I slipped into the hallway and grabbed the broom from the closet. I didn’t want to get away, which would have required an entire day of ripping the room apart looking for it. So I made sure it wasn’t lurking in the sheets.

Despite the broom, I was at a disadvantage. Because the spider was near the ceiling, there was always the chance that it would fall on me when I was bending over.

While I was sure it was going to be a disadvantage. Because the spider was near the ceiling, there was always the chance that it would fall on me and strike fear into my heart. But as the spider, that was definitely near the ceiling, there was always the chance that it would fall on me.

Then again, they don’t know what it’s like to be cornered in a wood shed with a spider hanging in the only exit while all its friends are having a good time outside.

And I sincerely doubt that any one of them has ever been stuck in a small tent at night and seen the outline of a descending spider silhouetted against the canopy. No, I don’t think they would think spiders were so much fun after that.

On the other hand, I’m sure they would all think it was very funny to see me—a grown man—on the porch in my boxer shorts, beating at the door and yelling for the dog to let me in. I’m sure they would all get a big chuckle out of seeing me run madly through the back yard before the spider could get itself back up on the porch for round two. I’m sure they would all find it amusing beyond words to know that eventually I had to break into my own bedroom window to get safely inside.

Fine. Go ahead, call me a big sissy. I don’t care. But when you wake up one day and find yourself mummified in spider silk, don’t come crying to me. I’ll be hiding under the bed.

Michael Thomas Ford’s new book, "That’s Mr. Faggot to You,” is in stores now. His last book, "Alec Baldwin Doesn’t Love Me,” recently won a Lambda Literary Award for best humor book. If you feel like it, write him at Shopitlee@aol.com.
In response to many e-mails here are some general answers:

Tickets for the Pier Dance are out and available at:
All Bull Moose music stores (Me/NH), $12 in advance
Drop Me A Line in congress square

Condom Sense on Fore street, the old port

THIS YEAR THEY ARE $15 at the dock.

Outright members need to speak to the local Portland chapter for group rate entry to the Pier, we are very glad to extend an invitation to full participation of all

(Me/NH) Outright members at our Pier Dance. We work to make the Pier one of the safest youth events on a Friday night in Portland.

Tee-shirts featuring the fabulous sunflower "We're Beautiful, Damn it!" Design will first be available on Wednesday, June 16th at Pride Lights.

We have both tank tops and Tee's and more XXL for those with more beauty to offer. Although this year's Tee shirts are exceptional, They still sell for only $10.

Yes, Damron Company is the same as Bob Damron's Guide. In fact we have both the 1999 Men's Damron Travel Guide AND the Damron Accommodations Guide (bed & breakfast for gays/lesbians) available at the Pride Merchandise Tables for $12 each, they normally retail for $18.95 plus tax. Compliments of our Grand Marshals "the Damron Company"

Shipyard Brewery is our major sponsor. It is a locally operated company with an excellent product which the Pride Committee enthusiastically supports.

We are also being sponsored by Samantha Juices. Shipyard, Samantha Juices and the Pride Committee, encourage responsible consumption of all beverage as Dance participants know from the past and will again be assured.

All SoMePride produced events are accessible for people with wheelchairs, we’ve always been this way. For those unable to keep up, if in wheelchair, during the Parade, no charge vehicles are allowed (if not designated as a float) to any group.

All public events, except the Pier Dance, of SoMePride will have a sign language interpreter. Pride planning meetings have always been and will always be physically accessible, we’d love to see everyone.

Comments directly to the planning committee may be forwarded to the voice mail and we’ll try to accommodate a timely answer. 207-774-7800
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The sunflower • appreciated
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a garden with its presage.
The sunflower comes to a wide varied, some coarse, some delicate. The sunflower is always turning toward the sun, looking up, absorbing light and life. Sunflowers are beautiful, damn it!

Hey - if you don't like the sunflower at least respect the right to grow.

The slogan reflects the general spirit of PRIDE. PRIDE is a celebration of who we are as a community. (And such a multi-faceted, multi-talented, diverse group we are)

In the face of all the good times, the bad times, the changes, the challenges - there is but one conclusion

WE'RE BEAUTIFUL, DAMN IT!

The Pride committee asks that you support our advertisers and sponsors. We particularly want to thank Shipyard Brewery for its support of Pride week. They are a brewer of one of America's great beers and an excellent representative of the finer things that make life in Southern Maine so great.

Pride encourages you to responsibly sample their range of beer both during Pride's Pier Dance, Pride Week and where ever you find quality brews.

This year's theme is WE'RE BEAUTIFUL, DAMN IT and the logo features a large gothic sunflower.

This year's Pride Celebration has been a production of the following people: Laurie Fortman - Parade, data bank; Michael Rossetti - City Liaison, Programming; Jonathan Williams - writer, editorial support; Shelly Banet - Volunteer Coordinator; Michael Adams, Antoinette Pizet, Rev. Cindy Solomon - Interfaith; Richard Lowlar Events and Promotions - media consultants; Sheldon Hartman - consultant; Kris Clark - Pier Dance Producer and finally dozens of community volunteers.
SUNDAY, JUNE 20TH.

CD Release Concert
Friday, June 18, 7-9 p.m.
at the State Street Church, Portland
Tickets: $10
Call 879-0480 to reserve tickets

SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 4-5 pm
Back Cove Walkway to Payson Park.

All are Welcome!
For more information call 879-0480!
Opening Pride Day, June 19th at 9:00 AM! (it's tradition)

June brings Martini Madness!
Featuring ABSOLUT Vodkas
Win ABSOLUT Glassware and register to win an Art Deco style MARTINI LAMP!
See Bar Posters for Details, Dates and Times!

July kicks off with the 4th.
We OPEN at 3:00 pm serving hamburgers and hot-dogs until 5:00 pm (still with tradition)
Red, White & Blue Jell-O Shots Too! Watch for the July Picnic buffet.

Drink Specials Everyday! Friday
Complimentary Buffet begins at 4:00 pm. Open Sunday's at 3:00.
Pool Tournaments every Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday nights. Our 12th Anniversary Party, Labor day weekend. (get your Toga ready!)
Halloween Celebration Oct. 31st. Costumes Encouraged for All Events!

DARIEN BRAHMS
To see Darien Brahm's live is to see an energy as spirited and diverse as Portland itself. Now a local entertainment treasure, singer/songwriter Darien Brahm's made her Portland debut at the tender age of 15. "All encompassing rock and roll" remains her major musical influence - with a true appreciation of the legends of American music. Area fans know her from her solo appearances and with bands such as 'Portland' and 'Holy Bones'. She's currently working with 'The Munjoy Hill Society' and can be frequently seen in clubs and in outdoor venues. Pride is pleased to welcome Darien and her talented crew. We can't think of a better way to light up Congress Square! Unless you're there!

ERNEST DAVID LIOI!
Coming from Boston on the heels of last November's release of his first album, Parody Romantic, Ernest David Lioi's style can be described as clever, cerebral, and moving. He started out wanting to record a song for his partner, and ended up filling an entire disc. Energetic and at times jazzy, Lioi's music is characterized as 'theatrical folk'. He incorporates elements from rock and folk styles. His music speaks clearly to anyone who's had the courage to leave convention behind. Ernest's CD's and bookings are at Hanriet Records, POBox 2335, Ogunquit, Maine 03907

MISS MAINE 1999
Southern Maine Pride is proud to welcome Miss Maine 1999 Staphany Louise Stanley to our festival for appearances at both the Pride Lights and Festival. Growing up in Canton, Maine, she has strong connections to the gay community. She continues to work toward acceptance and understanding for all people.

MR. MAINE LEATHER
Mike Fish, a self-employed craftsman, is articulate, soft spoken and in a long term monogamous relationship. He's bound (excuse the term) to change your ideas about the leather community and a charmer. New to the leather scene by merely a year, he was the first person from Maine to compete in an International Leather Competition last year.

YOLANDA! AND THE PLASTIC FAMILY
Pride welcomes performance artists YOLANDA! and the Plastic Family, who bring their quirky original music and awesome stage presence to this year's festival. With work focused on the meaning and purpose of queer life, they are notorious for gender bending and thought provoking lyrics. YOLANDA! entertains and asks us to question stereotypes and the society that enforces them. Billboard Magazine's Larry Rick says, "The Drag Musical Community spawns the most intriguing performer since RuPaul in the form of wildly charismatic Vermont-based tunesmith YOLANDA!" (Yolanda may be reached by email at Yolanda@AOL.com or snailmail at POBox 812, Burlington, VT 05402) see Festival Stage

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Jean Meike & Band

A prolific songwriter from Rouge Bluffs, Maine, Jean's new CD "On My Way" will roll out at the Pride Festival in Deering Oaks. Meike began her singing career in church as a toddler, singing gospel harmony through New England. She has played for six years in an all-women band, now a soloist. Her first CD, 'Dance on Fire' features Jean's full-bodied soulful, alto voice while her music is about growth, healing and having spiritual connections through relationship with others. Jean is returning with a whole new band for her second Southern Maine Pride. (see ad for CD's and bookings).

Dave Hall and the Corridors

"Places," the second album for New York-rooted Dave Hall has led him to performing for larger and more diverse crowds than ever before. With a blend of rugged rock and pop/folk, he explores the highs and lows of relationships without sexual boundaries. He has been called "one of the best unsigned pop-poppers out there." He comments, "My music appeals to people who are enlightened and people can find something universal in what I'm doing and saying." (Dave Hall may be reached at dhall@gluasppejre.com) see Pride Day Schedule.

Day and Night

Known already for their fresh, straight from the heart lyrics, and music that rocks, they recently recorded a Live CD at Harbor Light Cafe in Bath. Maine's own all female, all original, alternative pop/rock band, they'll be closing the Festival Stage on the 19th. You can get their CD at the Festival or call Rose Larking for bookings or performance schedule at 207-721-9544.)

The Freedom Trail Band

Boston based, this band is passing up other New England Prides on June 19 just to be in one of their favorite Pride's Portland, Maine. Around since the early 80's, Portland was the site of their first taped performance. Members come from around greater Boston and they've had several Portland area performers. From Sousa March's to Mozart to Glen Miller, they'll lead our Parade on the 19th. (Contact the Band at Muffitt@MassEd.net)

Darthe Merrill Jennings

Darthe Jennings is a songwriter and performer who lives in Downeast, Maine. Whether she is writing songs about equal rights, children, or her cats, her songs are social commentaries on what's what. Darthe performed last year for Southern Maine Pride, and at the Maine Civil Rights March in October in addition to many other venues around the state. Her performances are imbued with wit, pleasure, common sense, and are delightfully entertaining.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus

Once again this year, the Maine Gay Men's Chorus will be giving the community a preview as part of the PrideLights. Join the MGMC as they proudly reprise one of their most successful shows to date, Freedom Train. With some of the most inspirational and beautiful music ever written by oppressed people from around the world, this promises to be a performance to remember. (see PrideLights Concert)

The Interfaith Service

Beauty, Light, Together

This year's Interfaith is purposely expanded to include as many traditions as possible. We want it to demonstrate both the diversity in our communities and the appeal for goodness and justice common in our lives.

The service will begin with a Gathering Song, "For the Beauty of the Earth" followed by an opening prayer and blessing with Methodist Minister Sally Poland. Readings from the Old Testament will be read by Paul Albert of Ami Chofshi, followed by a reading of the Life of Buddha and a buddhist prayer by Cynthia Friend. Dignity will lead a Responsive Prayer. The closing will be with a Buddhist prayer, followed by a blessing from Rev. Cindy Solomon of the Metropolitan Community Church.

Immediately after the service the congregations will gather in Monument Square at 11:30 a.m., to share a Blessing of Couples by Rev. Solomon of MCC with the entire community on Pride Day.

The interfaith program and blessing in Monument Square will be signed for hearing impaired by Curley Kiebler.

Awards Dinner

Scholarship and Awards for Excellence in the business and professional community will be the focus of the Rainbow Business and Professional Associations gala event on June 13th at the Holiday Inn By the Bay. SoProProud is grateful for their participation in this year's Pride Week activities.

RPBA is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to promoting the vitality, productivity, and growth of the GLBT businesses and professional community in the State of Maine. RPBA holds monthly diner/speaker meetings at the Embassy Suites Hotel, the second Monday of each month and sponsors a summer picnic that will be coming up on August 8th. They produce a membership directory and distribute over 3000 copies throughout the state annually.

RPBA is proud of its scholarship fund activities in helping to promote the next generations of LGBT business leaders and professionals as well. The annual awards dinner is a source of pride for the LGBT community. Although at the time of this Guide's going to press, fundraising for this year's dinner is still possible. By calling 775-0050 or visiting the Rainbow Business and Professional Association website at www.rtpac.org you can still offer your financial support.

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